

*Pocahontas* - 7  
West Virginia  
RESEARCH IDENT

West Virginia Writers' Project  
RESEARCH IDENTIFICATION REPORT

Subject Commerce & Industry. Lumber Date 1/31/41  
Up & Down Mill and Sewing Machines.  
Research Worker Samuel G Smith Date Research Taken 1/24, 25, 30/41

Typist S.G Smith Date Typed 1/31/41

Source James R Ruckman Millpoint.W.Va Date Filed  
Maggie " " "  
Early " " "  
James Jordan Hillsboro.W.Va.



Commerce And Industry. Samuel G Smith Hillsboro.W.Va.Pocahontas Co.

About 1850 John H Ruckman who had located on the river just above  
Leibert at what is known today as the Beckley Pyles place built an Up And  
own mill at the mouth of Stamping Creek getting his power from the creek.  
Michael Scales and Jake Simmons helped on the mill and also helped cut logs  
up the river and raft them down to the mouth of then creek, these were mostly  
pine.

Shortly after Ruckman started operation a man by the name of James  
L.A Gibbs drifted in to that section and worked with Ruckman and were  
known as Gibbs & Ruckman and it was here that Gibbs invented the single  
stitch Sewing Machine using lumber sawed on this mill in the making of his  
machines, but when Gibbs obtained a patent on the machine Ruckmans name was  
n't mentioned (James Jordan who is near 90 years of age has one of these  
machines in his possession today) they operated here till about 61 or 62  
and due to the condition the war had brought on were unable to sell their  
machines or run the mill so Ruckman sold out to Samuel Auldridge and moved  
to Georgia and Gibbs went over about Staunton, Auldridge operated the mill  
for a while and sold out to William Clendenen who was a cabinet maker and  
used most of his lumber in cabinet and furniture making that he sawed on  
this mill.

This mill operated until about 1870 to 75 and was profitable  
to all who run it as they found a ready sale locally for the rough boards  
and what went in the Sewing machines and furniture also found a ready sale  
as this was one of Pocahontas Countys first industries.

Information-James R Ruckman Millpoint.W.Va.

Larly Ruckman. " "

Maggie Ruckman. " "

James Jordan. Hillsboro. "

Commerce And Industry.Samuel G Smith Hillsboro.W.Va.Pocahontas Co.

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Commerce And Industry. Samuel G Smith Hillsboro.W.Va.Pocahontas Co.  
Lumber-Up And Down Mill.

About 1875 Jacob Mcneel of near Hillsboro who owned land on Stamping Creek had an Up And Down mill built on the head of Stamping Creek near where W.P Derafield now lives.

They logged this mill with 3 yoke of cattle and a team of horses, Henry Rose drove a team and assisted on the mill he lived on Stamping Creek Granville McNeel did the sawing he was a son of Jacob, and it was on this mill that the lumber was sawed that built the Jacob McNeel house and better known as the Alex McNeel house also the lumber that was used in the Methodist Parsonage at Hillsboro was sawed by Granville McNeel on this mill right after this operation Granville went West and settled there.

Information.G.A McNeel Hillsboro.W.Va.

James Jordan.      "      "

Commerce And Industry.Samuel G Smith Hillsboro.W.Va.Pocahontas Co.  
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Information.G.A McNeel Hillsboro.W.Va.

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Date Research Taken 1/22,23,/41

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Source Edgar L Smith.Watoga.W.Va.  
Marvin C Smith.Hillsboro.W.Va.  
James R Ruckman.Millpoint.W.Va. Date Filed \_\_\_\_\_

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James R Ruckman.Millpoint.W.Va.

Commerce And Industry.Samuel G Smith Hillsboro.W.Va.Pocahontas Co.

Lumber-Up & Down Mill-

24/41 James Smith having sold out at Millpoint and located at the mouth  
of Stephens Hole Run near where the run empties in the Greenbrier River and  
it was here that James Smith with the assistance of his sons William, Isaac  
and Joseph, and Jacob built an Up & Down sawmill at this location about 1856  
they put in a waterwheel in Stephens Hole Run this furnished their power to  
run the mill and just above the mill they had a tanyard they worked at when  
they were not sawing.

It was on this mill that the lumber was sawed that built the Isaac  
Smith house also the lumber that built the gristmill was sawed on this Up &  
Down mill, the logs coming from the North along Stephens Hole Run, they were  
mostly Hemlocks and White Pine and from this same section and on this mill  
lumber was sawed and delivered to the Levels to the many farmers to erect  
houses and barns as the Little Levels was building up fast at that time and  
they were in need of lumber so so they found a ready market for all they cou-  
ld saw, but as a grist mill was badly needed in this section they decided to  
tear down the Up & Down mill and erect a grist mill which they did and it was  
in operation for many years, and today this is an old landmark in the Little  
Levels District of which the writer is proud as James was the Great grandfather  
Joseph my Grandfather and Isaac and William great uncles of Samuel Glenn  
Smith this writer. )) these old gentlemen were pioneers in their profession  
milling and tanning.

Information.Edgar L Smith.Watoga.W.Va.(son of Isaac)

Marvin C Smith.Hillsboro.W.Va.( son of Joseph )

James R Ruckman.Millpoint.W.Va.

Commerce And Industry.Samuel G Smith Hillsboro.W.Va.Pocahontas Co.

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